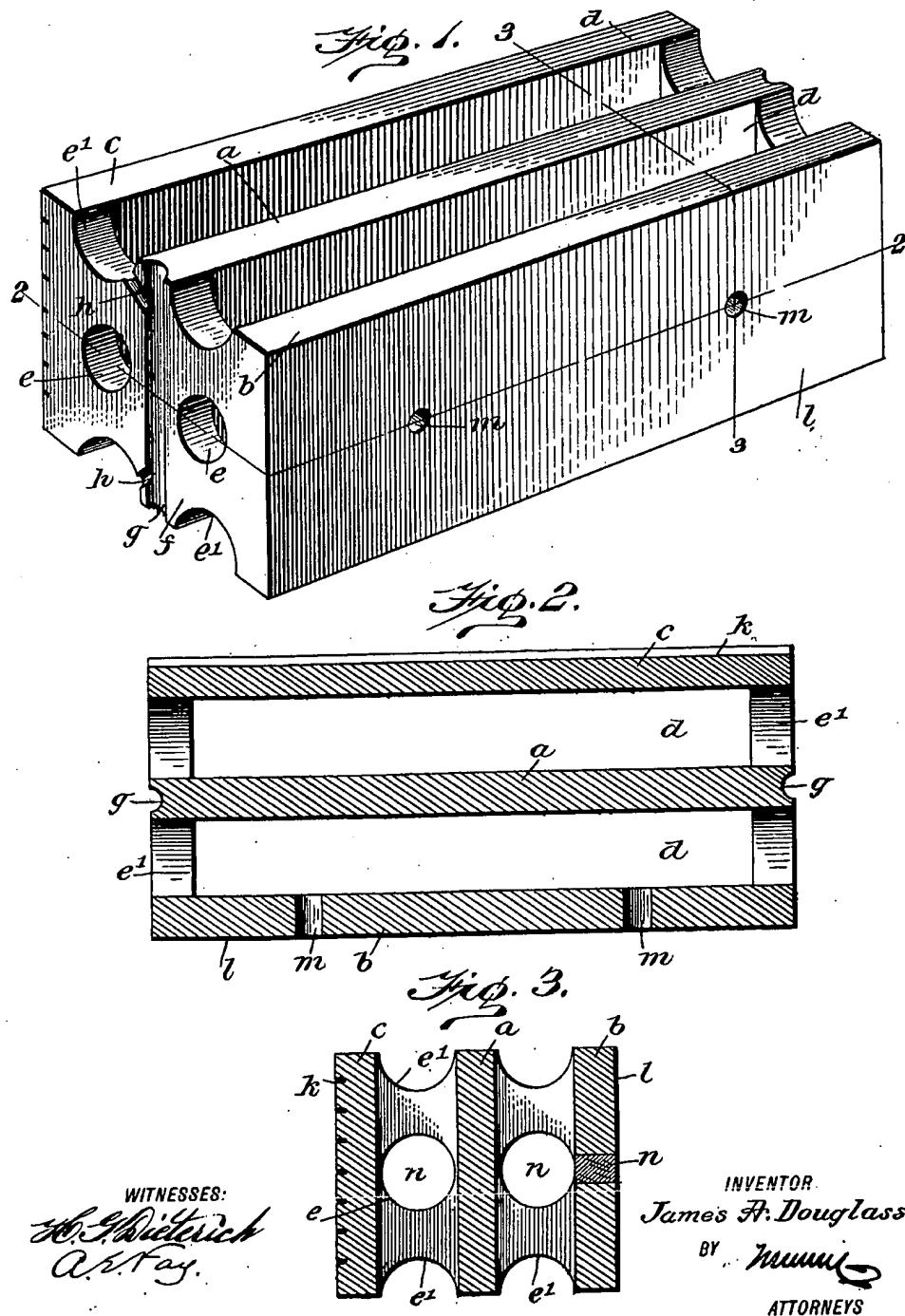


No. 836,017.

PATENTED NOV. 13, 1906.

J. A. DOUGLASS.
BUILDING BLOCK.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 19, 1906.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES A. DOUGLASS, OF ALLIANCE, OHIO.

BUILDING-BLOCK.

No. 836,017.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 13, 1906.

Application filed April 19, 1905. Serial No. 256,845.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES A. DOUGLASS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Alliance, in the county of Stark and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Building-Blocks, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to a building-block made of plastic material; and the principal objects thereof are to provide a block of such construction that it can be made in large sizes so as to take the place of a stone or several bricks without unduly increasing the weight, and therefore making it possible to lay the blocks much more rapidly than bricks can be laid.

Further objects of the invention are to provide ventilation both vertically and longitudinally; to provide separate inside and outside air-spaces insulated from each other, so as to prevent radiation and secure great warmth; to provide a plurality of air-spaces separated by incombustible walls, so as to secure thoroughly fireproof construction; to do away with studding and lathing, thus affording a great saving in cost and adding to the fireproof nature of the walls; to do away with plastering for the purpose of saving labor, and to provide means by which door and window casings and the like can be readily applied to the blocks.

My invention also comprises the formation of a block with a face to imitate smooth pressed brick or rock, with penciled lines between the representations of the several parts thereof, and a furrowed rear surface for a coat of finishing-plaster or a smooth rear surface for the application of calcimine.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a building-block constructed in accordance with the principle of my invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1.

My building-block is preferably provided with a central longitudinal partition *a*, an outside wall *b*, and an inside wall *c*. Although I have shown three such walls, it will be understood that additional ones may be added without departing from the spirit of

my invention. These walls divide the block into compartments and afford continuous parallel air-passages *d*, extending from the bottom to the top of the block. These passages are disconnected from each other on account of the imperforate partition *a*, and this affords a dead-air space on each side of the partition, thus adding to the warmth and insulating qualities of the wall.

It will be seen that when these blocks are placed one above another to form the wall these ventilating-passages will constitute portions of passages extending from the bottom of the building to the top and that the walls *b* and *c* will constitute, respectively, the outside and inside walls of the building. Although the two passages *d* are separated from each other, they are respectively connected with the passages in adjacent blocks by means of perforations *e* in the end walls *f* of the block. Perforations or grooves *e'* are also provided on the upper and lower faces of the end walls for a similar purpose. In each of the end walls a vertical groove *g* is also preferably provided, this groove being connected with the rear groove *e'* by means of inclined channels *h*. The grooves *g* are preferably semicylindrical, so that when two blocks are placed end to end a cylindrical vertical passage is provided between them.

The rear wall *c* is preferably provided with a roughened face *k* for the reception of plaster; but when calcimine is to be applied a smooth face is provided. The front wall *b* is preferably provided with a face *l* in the form of a representation of a portion of a pressed-brick wall—that is, showing a series of smooth brick faces in their natural size, with penciling of a lighter or different color between them.

In the manufacture of the block it will be readily understood that it can be made in any desired size, according to the requirements of the building; but I prefer to make it in such size that the front of the block will represent the front faces of seven and one-half bricks. In the front wall also there are perforations *m*, similar to the perforations *e*. Both of these sets of perforations are adapted to receive wooden plugs *n*. These wooded plugs are preferably soaked in oil before application and are inserted when window and door casings are to be attached. They are also used for the purpose of securing an ornamental face of marble, glass, steel, or any other desired material. In applying the

casings asbestos paper may be used to exclude air and render them fireproof.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters 5 Patent—

1. A building-block having a plurality of parallel longitudinal passages extending from top to bottom of the block, a groove in the end face of the block, and channels connecting the said groove directly with the said first-named passages.

2. A hollow building-block having an end wall provided with perforations or passages communicating with the interior of the block; 10 a groove in the face of the end wall, and passages for connecting said groove with the interior of the block.

3. A building-block having a plurality of parallel longitudinal passages extending from the top to the bottom of the block, and openings leading from the passages to the ends of the block whereby to connect the passages of abutting blocks, and a vertical groove in the end faces of the block between said passages, the grooves of abutting blocks 15 coacting to form vertical passage.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES A. DOUGLASS.

Witnesses:

BENJAMIN D. EDWARDS,
WILLIAM F. KINSEY.